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SUBJECT: MINISTRY OF INTERIOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS CHIEF
ACKNOWLEDGES MOI HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Classified By: POLITICAL COUNSELOR ROBERT S. FORD, FOR REASONS 1.4 (B)
AND (D).

¶1. (S) Summary: Ministry of Interior Director for Internal Affairs Brigadier General Ahmed Taha Al Mosawi (strictly protect) told Poloff February 8 that he has evidence linking MoI Commandos to widespread abductions and extra-judicial killings. Saying that he was too fearful for his life and the lives of his family members to pursue extensive action on this evidence, he did note that he had presented reports directly to the Minister of Interior, Bayan Baqr Jabr. With his interpreter as the only other Iraqi present, General Ahmed claimed that generally little follow-up on these reports has been pursued by the Minister. When asked to describe the type of evidence he presented, BG Ahmed was not specific. End Summary.

¶2. (S) BG Ahmed said he had a large amount of information implicating the police commandos, a group he described as being largely infiltrated by the Badr Corps and Jaysh al-Mahdi militia groups. BG Ahmed listed specific instances in which he says the commandos carried out ransom-motivated kidnappings as well as politically-motivated assassinations. In one case, he cited the February 7 assassination of a director of Iraqi National Intelligence. However, when asked about the types of evidence in his control to link the commandos to these human rights violations, BG Ahmed was not specific. When asked whether any investigation was ongoing as to allegations that the MoI was involved in the targeting, illegal detention, and subsequent killing of Sunnis, General Ahmed indicated that he was uncomfortable answering that question, but claimed that he did have some "evidence."

¶3. (C) BG Ahmed told Poloff that he had raised many of these allegations with Bayan Jabr directly. He claimed, however, that Jabr had taken little substantive action on these reports other than moving perpetrators of these human rights crimes to serve in other areas of the country, such as the Syrian border.

¶4. (C) In an earlier January 18 meeting with Commanding General Civilian Police Assistance Training Team (CPATT) MG Joseph Peterson, BG Ahmed stated that when he had brought cases of corruption, detainee abuse, or Iranian influence to Minister of Interior Jabr's attention, Jabr immediately fired the individuals, and if the evidence warranted it, remanded their cases for trial. He added that he had assigned officers to follow through with the Ministry of Justice on each of the cases being prosecuted. On February 13, he provided documentation to CPATT officials on specific cases the office has prosecuted. According to the document, six cases were remanded for trial and at least one officer was transferred out of 20 cases listed.

¶5. (S) BIO NOTE: General Ahmed, who at one point in his recent career was the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Baghdad

Police Chief, took office as the head of Internal Affairs September 30. The Internal Affairs Directorate (525 staff nationwide) was separated from the Inspector General's Office October 31 in a move widely believed to divest former Inspector General Nouri al Nouri of his administrative purview. The Internal Affairs Directorate is responsible for following up on allegations of crime and corruption among MoI staff and police while the Inspector General's Office is

responsible for inspecting prison conditions and financial audits. Under the current arrangement, the Director of Internal Affairs reports directly to the Minister.

¶6. (S) COMMENT: While it is difficult to evaluate the quality and extent of BG Ahmed's evidence against the police commandos or claims of his Minister's non-responsiveness, his statements are consistent with allegations that we have heard elsewhere about police involvement in kidnappings and extra-judicial killings. Post will continue to follow up with Ahmed and other Ministry personnel to pursue more information about available evidence.

KHALILZAD